

Gérard Joly (2013), *Dictionnaire biographique de géographes français du XX^e siècle, aujourd'hui disparus* (Biographic dictionary of today disappeared French geographers of the XXth century), U. M. R. Prodig, Paris, 186 pages, 546 photos.

Fruit d'un long et minutieux travail de documentation bibliographique et d'information directe, l'ouvrage dirigé par Gérard Joly est un outil très nécessaire pour tous ceux qui s'intéressent à l'histoire de l'une des écoles fondatrices de la géographie moderne, école qui s'est développée en parallèle avec les écoles géographiques allemande, anglaise, américaine et russe.

Le dictionnaire a été conçu par un groupe important de collaborateurs (57) et a employé les renseignements fournis par de nombreuses personnalités de la géographie française, certains passés même dans un monde meilleur, comme Max Derruau, Jean Tricart, Pierre George, Michel Phlipponneau, Philippe Pinchemel, Gabriel Rougerie etc.

À l'exception des grands précurseurs du XIX^e siècle, dont il ne faut pas oublier Elisée Reclus et Paul Vidal de la Blache, la plupart de ceux qui ont illustré la géographie française ont marqué par leur activité le siècle passé, et cela dans tous les domaines notables de la géographie, que ce soit dans la géographie physique ou la géographie humaine.

Le coordonnateur du livre et ses collaborateurs ont dû manifester une grande impartialité et objectivité pour nous donner un tableau complet de tous ceux qui se sont manifestés dans la vie géographique universitaire française, même si les circonstances politiques ou les raisons de santé n'ont pas permis à certains d'arriver à une finalisation officielle.

Le dictionnaire accorde une attention facilement concevable aux figures de proue de la géographie française et insiste sur le caractère multilatéral de leurs préoccupations scientifiques – Pierre Birot (géographie physique complexe), Henri Baulig (géomorphologie dans la conception davisienne), André Cholley (géomorphologie et géographie régionale), Max Derruau (géomorphologie et géographie humaine), René Raynal (géomorphologie périglaciaire), Jean Dresch (géographie des milieux désertiques), André Guilcher (morphologie littorale), Philippe Pinchemel (géomorphologie, épistémologie de la géographie), Gabriel Rougerie (biogéographie), Camille Vallaux (océanographie, géographie politique), Albert Demangeon (géographie humaine et régionale), Jean Tricart (géomorphologie, aménagement du territoire), Jean Brunhes (géographie humaine, géographie de la France et de la Suisse), Maximilien Sorre (géographie humaine, géographie de la Péninsule Ibérique), Raoul Blanchard (géographie des Alpes, géographie urbaine), Lucien Febvre (géographie historique et sociale), Pierre George (géographie urbaine et politique), Pierre Lavedan (géographie des villes), Pierre Gourou (géographie rurale et tropicale), Maurice Le Lannou (géographie humaine et régionale), Jacqueline Beaujeu-Garnier (géographie de la population et des agglomérations humaines), Étienne Dalmasso (géographie économique), Étienne Juillard (géographie agraire et sociale), Bernard Kayser (géographie des relations ville-campagnes), Jean Labasse (études sur l'espace financier), Hildebert Isnard (géographie du Maghreb), Aimé Perpillou (géographie rurale), Pierre Monbeig (géographie de l'Amérique Latine), Michel Phlipponneau (géographie rurale et appliquée) etc.

Ce qui donne une valeur particulière à la géographie française est le développement de plusieurs centres régionaux de recherche et d'enseignement, centres qui ne se sont jamais senti étouffés par la dominance autoritaire de la capitale et ont su se spécialiser dans des domaines divers, comme Bordeaux (géographie tropicale), Strasbourg (géomorphologie), Grenoble (géographie des Alpes), Toulouse, Clermont-Ferrand, Dijon etc.

D'un autre côté, au niveau international, la géographie française a déposé beaucoup d'efforts pour se tenir au courant avec les tendances modernes parus dans la géographie après la deuxième guerre mondiale, surtout sous l'impulsion de la géographie anglo-saxonne, mais aussi par l'activité de certains géographes français en Amérique, comme Jean Gottmann. La participation régulière aux conférences géographiques internationales, l'organisation de nombreuses manifestations pareilles et même la direction de certains organismes mondiaux, comme l'U.G.I., ont permis un contact permanent avec l'activité des géographes des autres pays.

Le livre de Gérard Joly ne néglige pas le rôle des géographes dans la consolidation des relations de recherche et de collaboration scientifique entre les géographes français et la Roumanie. Evidemment, le rôle fondamental dans cette direction a été celui d'Emmanuel de Martonne, qui a passé ses deux thèses de docteur avec des sujets sur la Roumanie, après de longues années de travail sur le terrain, qui a orienté vers l'étude des problèmes géographiques roumains plusieurs de ses élèves (Robert Ficheux et Geneviève Vergez-Tricom, ces-ci ayant aussi enseigné en Roumanie, André Nordon, François Weymuller et Odette Girard), a facilité la spécialisation en France de certains géographes roumains et a organisé les excursions géographiques à travers la Roumanie qui sont devenues la source d'information pour le chapitre consacré à la Roumanie du tome IV de la

Géographie Universelle. On n'oublie pas de mentionner le rôle considérable joué par Emmanuel de Martonne, Bertrand Auerbach et le jeune démobilisé Georges Chabot, en tant que membres du Comité d'Études auprès de la Conférence de la Paix de Versailles, pour tracer les nouvelles frontières, correctes, de l'Europe Centrale.

Parmi les autres géographes français qui se sont préoccupés des roumains, on n'oublie pas Jacques Ancel, auteur très bien informé des *Peuples et nations des Balkans* (1926).

Dans les premières années d'après la deuxième guerre mondiale une relative froideur est intervenue dans les relations politiques et scientifiques entre la France et l'Europe de l'Est, mais après le dégel de 1955, une nouvelle génération de géographes français a manifesté son intérêt pour la Roumanie. Une contribution essentielle dans cette direction fut celle d'André Blanc, bon connaisseur des problèmes de toute l'Europe du Sud-Est, collaborateur avec Pierre George, Henri Smotkine et Ion Şandru aux *Républiques socialistes d'Europe centrale* (1975) et auteur du livre au titre significatif *La Roumanie – le fait national dans une économie socialiste*, paru la même année. Comme autrefois Emmanuel de Martonne, André Blanc a dirigé vers la Roumanie l'intérêt de certaines de ses collaboratrices. D'autres travaux, de moindre ampleur, sont dues aux géographes français orientés politiquement vers la gauche, comme Pierre George ou Jean Suret-Canale.

Le livre est richement illustré, avec de nombreuses photographies, systématiquement ordonnées en 10 chapitres thématiques. Certaines de ces photos, inconnues en Roumanie, sont pour nous d'un intérêt réel, comme celles montrant Emmanuel de Martonne et Robert Ficheux dirigeant une excursion dans les Carpates Occidentales, ou bien Robert Ficheux devant la Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire de Bucarest, ou il était hébergé etc. Un bref chapitre introductif et des annexes intéressantes accompagnent le texte proprement-dit du livre – une chronologie générale et presque complète de tous les géographes inventoriés, un index des personnes reconnaissables figurés sur les photographies etc.

Un ouvrage très utile pour une future histoire de la géographie et un exemple de travail consciencieux et rigoureux.

Alexandru Ungureanu

Sorin GEACU (editor) (2014), *Bibliografia lucrărilor ştiinţifice ale membrilor Institutului de Geografie, 1995–2014* (A Bibliography of scientific productions by the members of the Institute of Geography, 1995–2014), Edit. Universitară, Bucureşti, 265 pages.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute of Geography, a Bibliography of the research results obtained over the past 20 years has been issued. It contains 3,567 titles published by the authors (in alphabetical succession, but also in chronological order). The seven chapters of this work are: I. Books and dictionaries; II. Chapters introduced in volumes; III. Articles included in periodicals and volumes; IV. Works published in abstracts volumes; V. Maps and guides; VI. Anniversaries, Commemorations, Evocations; VII. Miscellanea. The Bibliography ends with an authors' index.

Although the period covered is not particularly long, yet the scientific results published by the Institute of Geography members are quite remarkable. The aspects approached come from all Geography branches: Geomorphology, Climatology, Hydrology, Phytogeography, Zoogeography, Soil Geography, Environmental Geography, Toponymy, Historical Geography, Population Geography, Geography of Human Settlements, Economic Geography, Geography of Tourism, Theoretical Geography, History of Geography, Cartography and Geopolitics.

The ordinary succession of published works reveals the wide diversity of scientific interests, combining traditional works with approaches to new, interdisciplinary research directions.

The volume, basically an efficient tool not only for profile specialists, combines tradition with continuity, representing also a necessity in the conditions of the current informational explosion.

The Bibliography is useful both to geographers and to workers from scientific areas Geography interrelates with, e.g. the Natural Sciences, the Socio-Human Sciences and the fields of engineering.

Monica Dumitraşcu

Radu Săgeată (2014), *The urban systems in the age of globalization. Geographical studies with focus on Romania* (Sisteme urbane în perioada globalizării. Studii geografice centrate pe România), Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Deutschland/Germany, 14 chap., 91 figs, 256 pages.

This English language volume, intended to a foreign readership, analyses the impact of globalizing fluxes on the Romanian urban system in the conditions of transition from a central-based economic, pyramid-like system, to an economy underlain by free competition and participative democracy. In this respect, Romania is typical of the entire Central and East-European space emerged from under the Soviet-type political-ideological and economic influence and assuming the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The fourteen chapters of this work, representing as many facets of this impact, are introduced by a technical methodological section discussing the key concepts of the studied domain, e.g. globalizing cores and fluxes, globalization-urban systems relationships, development between the economy and culture – a component of sustainable development, as well as the concept of ‘cosmopolitan city’.

Since the intended foreign readership is not very familiar with the particular aspects of Romania, the author begins with a presentation of strengths and weaknesses induced by three major geographical landmarks: the Carpathian Mountains the River Danube and the Black Sea (*Chapter One*). Furthermore, he presents the main geostrategic assets of this country within the new, post-1989, architecture of Europe: Romania, a state of European cross-roads, a possible emerging hub in the future and, last but not least, a factor of regional stability. The end section of this chapter discusses the historical and geopolitical background against which the present-day borderlines of this country had been traced, generating disparities between the political and ethnical frontiers, the respective minorities subsequently contributing to cross-border to cooperation.

Chapter Two goes on the same general line of approach, this time shifting the analysis from political frontiers to administrative bounds, with insights into the mediaeval administrative-territorial structures the counties of to-day are based on, the succession of regional structures in the territory of Romania, and the main post-1989 proposals for the country’s regionalisation. In the author’s view, an alternative solution, detailed out and argued (*Chapter Three*), would be the administrative delimitation proceeding from towns with polarising functions and their functional relationships in the territory.

Chapter Four assigns towns in Romania the role of antrepreneurial initiative and inter-communal co-operation, discussed from both a historical perspective and its topicality, given the growing importance of local communities as actors of territorial governance.

The gaps between the local cultural heritage, embodied in traditional products and in products of global cultural consumption, which tend to blur asperities, but also cultural individuality and try to oust traditional products (*Chapter Five*) through lower prices and aggressive marketing.

Chapter Six familiarizes the foreign reader with the particularities of the Romanian urban system shaped by the permanent action between processes of fragmentation, materialized by the numerical multiplication of towns in the territory, and processes of integration, visible in the formation of ever larger zones of influence that underly the emergence of regional structures. This scientific approach continues in *Chapter Seven* which dwells on the interaction between the two processes (fragmentation and integration) in the built-up area of Bucharest, Romania’s capital-city and of its zone of influence.

Chapter Eight focuses on industry, a town-generating factor, the importance of this sector for the central-based economy of Central and Eastern Europe, and the regional disparities of industrialization. The author undertakes a detailed analysis of the correlation existing among political decisions, industrialization and urbanization, exemplified by Romania’s iron-and-steel industry, one among those benefitting from major investments during the centralized economic system.

The industrial decline that followed the year 1990 and the solutions of spatial reconversion after unsuccessful privatizations, generalized negligence and corruption, the desire for fast-gaining profits manifest at all levels, are topics discussed in *Chapter Nine*. Services, primarily commercial activities, less developed previously, are seen to fill in the place left by the declining industry.

Another consequence of the above phenomenon is expounded in *Chapter Ten* devoted to the new ethnical minorities and their impact in the territory, especially in the large cities. Thus, the changed ethnical composition is reflected in urban segregation and physiognomy, which bears the cultural mark of these population, a defining feature of the cosmopolitan brand of large cities.

The discussion on urban physiognomy goes on in *Chapter Eleven*, this time with reference to the political factor which, in certain historical periods, filters globalizing fluxes, allowing for their selective penetration represented by certain cultural models visible in some characteristic architectural layers of the building stock.

The next two chapters (*Twelve and Thirteen*) deal with the complex problematique of peripheral areas and the role of globalizing fluxes in stimulating cross-border co-operation, as well as similitudes and disparities between Euro-regions in the West, Central and Eastern parts of Europe, particular aspects on euro-region set-up at Romania's borders. The role of doublet settlements in directing cross-border co-operation fluxes is illustrated by the cross-border co-operation euro-regions existing at the EU eastern frontier.

The *last chapter* of the volume follows on the same line of cross-border approaches with highlight on transborder natural hazards, exemplified with case-studies of flooding episodes in Romania and in its neighbour states over the last ten years, having in view that much of Romania's frontiers (1,817 km, that is 57.7% of their total length) run along watercourses.

Looking at the complexity of this volume, *The Urban Systems in the Age of Globalization. Geographical Studies with Focus on Romania* represents a work of reference for contemporary Romanian Geography, warmly recommended to both specialists and the general readership abroad

Bianca Mitrică

Virgil Gârbacea (2013), *Relieful de Glimee* (The Glimee landforms), Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj, 258 pages, 56 figs, refers., summary in English.

Geomorphological evidence and fundamental research in general are known to be the necessary solid ground for establishing effective land utilization. The present book integrates itself into promoting good practice and effective land use by offering the geomorphological base for potential solutions.

The book entitled *The Glimee landforms* (in Romanian) of Professor Virgil Gârbacea represents the crown of his decade-long work devoted to the research of this kind of relief, especially in the Transylvanian Tableland, at the same time incorporating a wide range of studies (papers, PhD theses, maps, etc.) of other researchers who tried to decipher various aspects of this particular kind of environment. The aim of the work, as stated by the author, is to delimit, both from a scientific and a practical view point, a particular type of relief, in order to determine the optimal land use.

The term *glimee* is defined as massive landslide processes which affect both the shallow deposits and the rocks beneath on a depth of tens of meters. The resulted forms range from simple mounds or long ridges to large areas of complex morphology (a multitude of positive micro-landforms, tabular landforms and longitudinal depressions, sometimes with micro-depressions containing wetlands or small lakes, and transversal depressions). Being used in many regions of Romania, the term *glimee* was adopted by the IGU, on the occasion of the International Congress of Geography held in New Delhi (India) in 1968, and introduced in the international vocabulary for defining this particular process and the resulted forms.

The work refers to old *glimee* landforms, assumed to have formed in Late-Glacial and Holocene (up to the Sub-Boreal) and having larger sizes than the morphologically similar, but more recent landslides. This type of landslides has a high frequency and imposes a specific geomorphic landscape on large areas in the Transylvanian Plain, the southern part of the Hârtibaciu Tableland and the Moldavian Plain, still without completely missing in other units.

A large introduction chapter presents the variety of geographical names and terms used throughout Romania for the various issued and evolving microforms. It also puts the *glimee* landslides in relation to the various landslide classifications existing in Romania, in different other countries or functioning at an international level.

The book makes an in-depth geomorphic analysis of the *glimee* relief, covering all aspects referring to: their position on slopes and integration in the general relief evolution, morphography and morphometry, favorable conditioning factors, morphodynamics, geomorphic processes shaping them after their formation, their age and potential triggering causes.

After the general analysis, the regional aspect is synthesized for the main *glimee*-affected regions of Romania (The Transylvanian Tableland, The Moldavian Tableland and others) and also detailed *glimee*-cases are presented based on the existing researches.

The book gathers a large amount of research experiments and results from a series of authors, critically discusses them and attempts to form a coherent view on the *glimee*-type relief. It is worth mentioning that the author, Prof. Virgil Gârbacea, sometimes avoids formulating a conclusion and leaves room for future research and interpretation of the methods and results.

An important chapter is the concluding one, which highlights the variety of local geographic conditions which have to be carefully taken into consideration for the purpose of the sustainable use of the land in agriculture. The applied interest of the *glimee* landscape is discussed, given the high frequency of this type of relief especially in the Transylvanian Tableland. The author underlines the need for a detailed investigation of the local conditions which are considered essential in an applied research, even for the analysis of the local geodiversity at a micro-scale and the need for an interdisciplinary study of the issuing micro-environments, with the aim of differentiating a multitude of “shade” conditions primarily depending on the relief. It is also pointed out that the geomorphic observations mainly conducted upon the Transylvanian *glimee* can be of use in the study of such landslides in other parts of Romania. An important tool is assigned to the geomorphologic mapping, as well as the mapping of other physical conditions (hydrological, soil, phenology of the natural vegetation, etc.).

Marta Jurchescu

Radu Săgeată (coord.), Daniela Nancu, Bianca Mitrică, Mihaela Persu, Nicoleta Damian, Claudia Popescu, Irena Mocanu, Ines Grigorescu, Liliana Guran, Paul Șerban, Dragoș Baroiu (2014) *Euroregiunile de cooperare transfrontalieră din Bazinul inferior al Dunării. Studiu geografic* (Cross-Border Euroregions in the Lower Danube Basin. Geographical Study), Edit. Academiei Române, București, 339 p., 48 tables, 130 figs., refers., summary in English.

This work, elaborated by a research-team of the Romanian Academy’s Institute of Geography, is the result of the participation of this country in the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region*. The main purpose of writing was to point-out and analyse cross-border co-operation potential, as well as Romania’s development characteristics and opportunities in the region and in Europe.

The six chapters of the book discuss the theoretical-methodological framework of trans-border zones and of cross-border co-operation Euroregions, the mutual relationships established among them in the course of time, the role of human settlements in shaping these relations, and the particularities of the cross-border co-operation structures Romania is part to. In order to illustrate the above, a comparative case-study has been undertaken between the Euroregion system at the east German frontier and that at Romania’s frontier, both falling into the category of asymmetric Euroregions.

The central body of this volume, also the most comprehensive one (Chaps. II, III, IV and V), is devoted to the many-sided analysis of the cross-border co-operation potential and to the system of cross-border co-operation Euroregions at the frontiers of this country, with highlight on the historical, ethnical, demographic and socio-economic particularities of cross-border administrative units. At the same time, several Euroregions and cross-border convergence areas, considered to be relevant for each transfrontier zone Romania is part to, represent case-studies analysed in great detail.

The last section of the book looks at Romania’s maritime frontier, the geostrategic and geo-economic inter-conditionings in the Black Sea Basin, as well as the advantages for Romania’s geographical position as energy hub in the transport of hydrocarbons from the Caspian Sea to the European Union.

A long list of bibliographical references and a summary in English are appended.

By its structure and the wealth of latest information, the book is recommendable to a wide readership – specialists, teaching staff, students and the public at large interested in the dynamics of the cross-border areas Romania is part to, especially in the current geopolitical and geo-economic context.

This achievement is the outcome of a research-theme on the *Geographical Study of Euroregions and Cross-border Co-operation potential in the Conditions of Romania’s Integration into the European Union*, included in the research plan of the Romanian Academy’s Institute of Geography, 2007–2011.

The contents of the book fall in line with the EU major research and innovation programme *Horizon 2020* and the *Strategy of territorial development of Romania 2035*, a strategic document guiding development processes in the territory in the light of local evolutions, of prospective trends for the year 2035 and of European territorial development targets.

The data used rely mainly on the Population and Housing Census, October 20, 2011, the statistical databases: TEMPO-Online (National Institute of Statistics), EUROSTAT, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania, and on the latest censuses in neighbouring countries.

Elena Ana Popovici

